

DATE

Ms. Alesia M. Ardoin
Law Offices of R. Gray Sexton
8680 Bluebonnet Blvd., Suite D
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

**Re: Louisiana Board of Ethics Docket No. 2022-013
Advisory Opinion**

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its February 4, 2022 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics (“Code”) would prohibit Linda Curtis-Sparks from being employed with the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission (“Tourist Commission”) upon the termination of her employment agreement as Executive Director of the Tourist Commission.

FACTS PROVIDED

You stated that Linda Curtis-Sparks has served as the Executive Director of the Tourist Commission pursuant to an employment agreement that expired on December 31, 2021. You stated that Ms. Curtis-Sparks provided her services as a payroll employee of the Tourist Commission. You stated that following the termination of her employment agreement, Ms. Curtis-Sparks would like to continue her employment on a part-time basis as a payroll employee in a role other than Executive Director.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1121A(1) prohibits a former agency head, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service as the head of such agency, from assisting another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, involving that agency or render any service on a contractual basis to or for such agency

ANALYSIS

Based on the information provided, Linda Curtis-Sparks was the agency head of the Tourist Commission, and as such, is generally prohibited for two years from December 31, 2021, from assisting another person, for compensation, in a transaction involving the Tourist Commission or rendering any service on a contractual basis to or for the Tourist Commission. The employment of Ms. Curtis-Sparks on a part-time basis in a role other than Executive Director would not be considered a contractual basis if she is a payroll employee.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that La. R.S. 42:1121A(1) of the Code would not prohibit Linda Curtis-Sparks from being employed on a part-time basis, provided that she is a payroll employee and not a contractual employee.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Louisiana Board of Ethics issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions contained in the Louisiana Gaming Control Law. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Gregory L. Thibodeaux
For the Board